

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

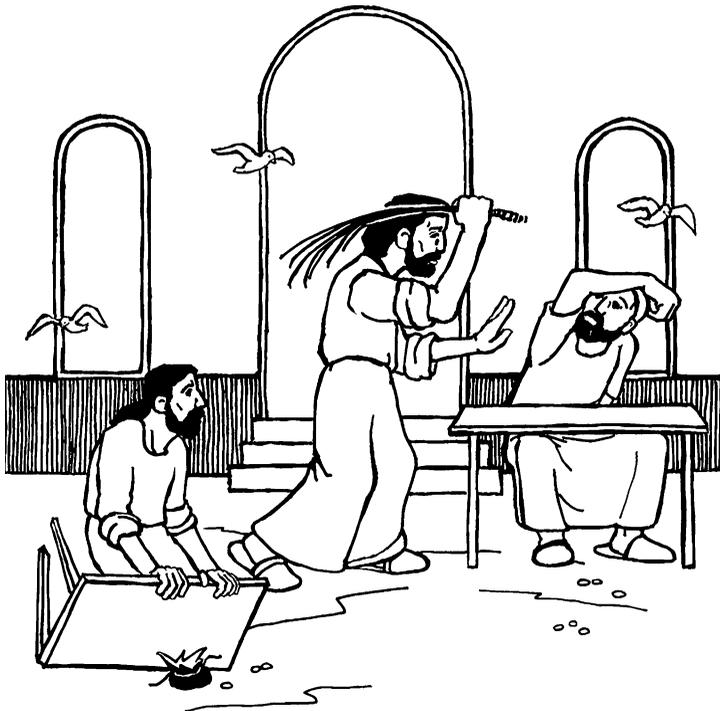
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

March 07, 2021

9:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY in LENT



The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

☞ Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

☞ **Amen.**

☞ God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

☞ Fountain of living water,

☞ **pour out your mercy over us.**

Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.

Rebuild what we have ruined

and mend what we have torn.

Wash us in your cleansing flood.

Make us alive in the Spirit

to follow in the way of Jesus,

as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.

☞ Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are ✝ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

☞ **Amen.**

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by
night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high
tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my
pow'r.
- 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ And also with you.

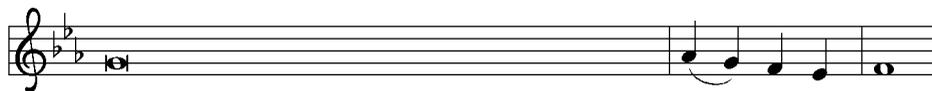
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



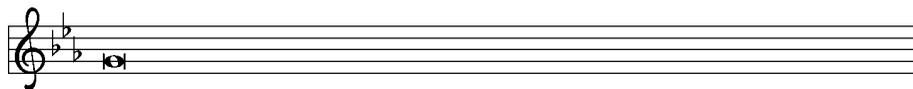
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



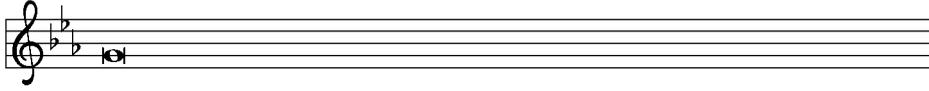
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Holy God,
- ☑ through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Exodus 20:1-17

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

God spoke all these words:

²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 19 (*read responsively*)

¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

**⁸The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

**¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**¹²Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

**¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "*I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discerning of the discerning I will thwart.*" ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord!**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 2:13-22

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, “*Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!*” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, “*Zeal for your house will consume me.*” ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, “*What sign can you show us for doing this?*” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “*Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*” ²⁰The Jews then said, “*This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?*” ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

SERMON

Pastor Roynesdal

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“You Are the Way”

ELW 758

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 You are the way; to you alone
from sin and death we flee;
all those who search for God, you find
and by your grace set free.</p> <p>2 You are the truth; your word alone
true wisdom can impart;
you only can inform the mind
and purify the heart.</p> | <p>3 You are the life; the rending tomb
proclaims your conqu'ring arm;
and those who put their trust in you
not death nor hell shall harm.</p> <p>4 You are the way, the truth, the life;
grant us that way to know,
that truth to keep, that life to win,
whose joys eternal flow.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: George W. Doane, 1799-1859, alt.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

☐ With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**☒ I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: **P** Lord, in your mercy,
 G hear our prayer.

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Robert “Bob” Ray, father of Richard Ray; to the family and friends of Betty West, mother of Jim West; to the family and friends of Robert Whitehead

Illness: Lois Andresen, Richard Bock, Kristin Boe, Don Burton, Myrna Carter, Carol Duncan, Mike Edris, Rodney Edwards, Lowell Harms, Richard Holzer, Renee Johnson, Gerald Klonglan, father of Jason Klonglan, Jason Klonglan, Marcie Lafleur, Ron Muchmore, Mary Olson, David Penning, Anita Nickeson, mother of Diane Nickeson-Ray, Diane Nickeson-Ray, Toby Rees, Gary Rodene, Judy Ryan, Al Schewe, Mark Sullivan, Helen Taylor, Sheri Tipton, Dorothy Vancaster, John Waterman, Darlene White

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Wyatt Johnson, Josh Kropenske, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, Joel Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Rev. Rachel Ringlaben, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

Other Prayers: *Seminarians*—Adam Klinker, Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks, Justin Perkins

WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always. **G** And also with you.

As we share the peace today – and you do so in your home – You are invited you to contact a fellow member by phone, email or letter. You can do that today or any time during the week. Pick someone from the church directory. We could email each other or call each other during this time when we cannot meet. Then each week select another person to contact. Try to make it someone you don’t really know and get acquainted with them. Always be sure to leave your address, email, and phone number on your message in case they do not have a directory. Talk to people you know and get the names and addresses of those who might not have directories and try to contact them. By the time we meet again we will have made many new friends.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

Please Support the overall ministry of Kountze Memorial during these difficult times. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online. If you are able, please mail in your offering or donate on-line. Thank you!



OFFERTORY MUSIC

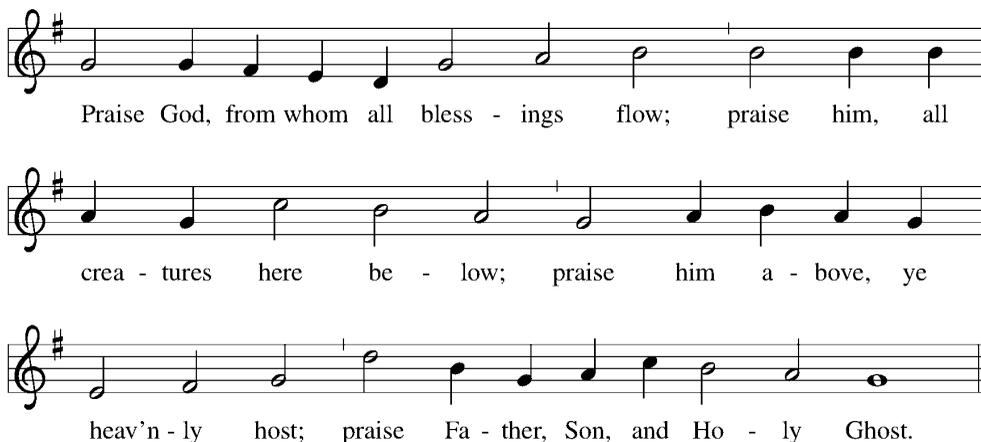
“The Weeping Tree”

Joseph M. Martin
Paul Rath, *soloist*

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

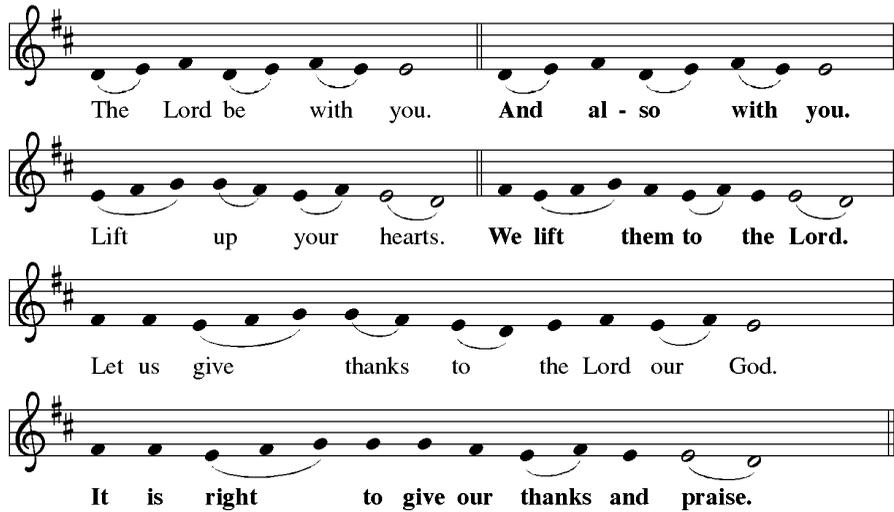


Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☞ Faithful God,
- ☞ **you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we will pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

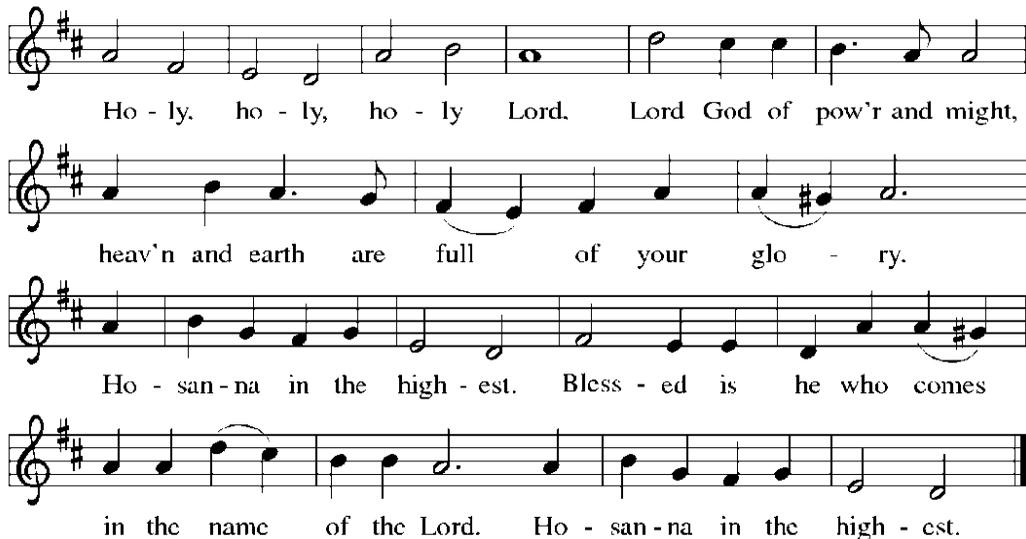


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR LENT

- ☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call us, your people, to cleanse our hearts and prepare with joy for the Easter celebration, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we will come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Jesus draws the whole world to himself.

C **Come to this meal and be fed.**

DISTRIBUTION

All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy.

(sit)

AGNUS DEI



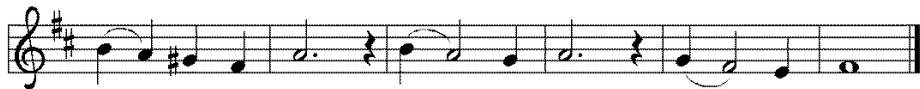
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

ELW 623

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
cleansing me from its guilt and pow'r.

2 Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring;
simply to thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778

- 1** When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2** Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

- 3** See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4** Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** God of steadfast love,
- C** at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives will bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☞ You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God the Father, † Son and Holy Spirit bless you that you may be a blessing.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“The Glory of these Forty Days”

ELW 320

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, through whom all things were
made,
himself has fasted and has prayed.</p> | <p>3 So Daniel trained his mystic sight,
delivered from the lions' might;
and John, the Bridegroom's friend,
became
the herald of Messiah's name.</p> |
| <p>2 Alone and fasting Moses saw
the loving God who gave the law;
and to Elijah, fasting, came
the steeds and chariots of flame.</p> | <p>4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too,
return in fast and prayer to you.
Our spirits strengthen with your grace,
and give us joy to see your face.</p> |

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862-1947, alt.

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Share the good news.
☞ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

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Spending Time (again!) with an Old Friend
Wednesdays, 7:00 PM
In-Person (please register by noon on Tuesday)
Live-Stream



Last year our midweek Lenten Worship was to give us an opportunity to visit an old friend: The Lord's Prayer. That was cut short by the pandemic. So again each week we will reflect on various petitions(s) of this great prayer gaining insights from Martin Luther's Small Catechism. The Pastors are looking forward to this special time and encourage you to come (or live-stream) and hopefully gain a new perspective and a new appreciation for the prayer we say most often.

Our Schedule will be as follows:

Wednesday, March 10

The Fifth Petition

"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

Wednesday, March 17

The Sixth Petition

"And lead us not into temptation."

Wednesday, March 24

The Seventh Petition and the Conclusion

"But deliver us from evil. Amen."

Special Notice

If you plan to attend Worship in person, please call/e-mail the church office no later than noon on the Thursday before the Saturday or Sunday you want to attend. Please note that the plans set forth are subject to immediate change. You may still join us for Worship on Cox channel 13 or live streamed at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/>



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

March 6 & 7, 2021

Kountze Food Pantry Good News! and Volunteers Needed

Mondays, 7:30 - 9:00 AM

9:00 - 11:00 AM

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Fridays, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

We received good news! The state has re-funded the Farmers to Families program until June. This program provides a 28 lb. box of vegetables and fruit. They also provide 1 gallon of milk. This program is free for us. The only bad news is we rarely have enough volunteers to unload and prepare the boxes. We still need volunteers to carry out food to the cars of our guests. We have shopping carts to assist the volunteers, so you only have to lift into and out of the cart. You will be paid handsomely with coffee and Barb's cookies! Please consider helping them out by volunteering at the link below:

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

Youth Summer Trip

Summer Trip Planning for 8th—12th graders will be July 31—August 7, 2021. Let us know of your interest by March 22. An email to Pastor Shari (shari@kmlchurch.org) will greatly help in the planning.

Attendance and Giving

Saturday Attendance: 30

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 75

Wednesday Attendance: 27

Total: 105

Streaming Attendance: 180

Cox Cable Attendance:

Pantry Guests Served: 824

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 23

Offering:

\$16,808.00 (Regular) \$5,505.13 (Specials)

\$1,187.00 (Debt Reduction)

Today at Kountze

Eternal Candle is given to the glory of God in memory of our Mom/Grandma, Lois Carlsen in remembrance of her birthday by her children and grandchildren, the Carlsen and Campbell families

Online Sunday School

Lessons are videotaped and posted on the KMLC Parents Facebook page as well as our Kountze Facebook Page.

Youth Forum

In-Person & Zoom on Sundays, 10:15 - 11:00 AM

All 9th – 12th Graders are invited to join us!

We will meet in person in the Youth Room and on Zoom each week

1st Sunday: Bible Ponderings

2nd Sunday: High School Hang Out

3rd Sunday: Serving in the World

4th Sunday: Host Middle School Hangout

5th Sunday: Adventures (if on Zoom, we will carry you along with us.)

Contact Pastor Shari (402-341-7761 or shari@kmlchurch.org if you need the Zoom Link info. We will continue to be masked and physically distanced for all meetings in person at the church.

Daylight Saving Time



Be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed next Saturday night, March, 13.

God's glory, God's handiwork, is awesome

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 2:13-22	Jesus cleanses the temple
Monday	Exodus 20:1-17	The Ten Commandments
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	Christ crucified
Wednesday	Genesis 1:27-31	God created humankind
Thursday	Mathew 6:25-33	God cares for you
Friday	Job 12:7-10	Even the animals will teach you
Saturday	Psalms 19	God is creator and gives the law
Sunday	John 3:14-21	God so loved the world



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Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Psalms 19:14 (NRSV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Awesome God, your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom and your weakness is stronger than our own might. Give us humility and thanksgiving for your saving grace through Christ our Lord. Amen. (1 Corinthians 1:25)

Mealtime Prayer:

For life and health and every good, we give you thanks, O Lord. Amen. (Traditional table grace song)

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who raised Jesus from the dead enliven your heart with joy.

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Describe a time when you experienced great joy.
- In what ways is the Christian life an experience to enjoy?
- What are some words you would use to describe the majesty of God?

Read: Psalm 19.

The psalmist focuses on two ways to experience God's awesomeness: the sun as part of creation and the law that guides God's people. The first focuses on the power of creation to preach of God's glory throughout the universe. A sunrise shouts God's presence and glory. Creation communicates God's power, and, yet, no human hears it. The law also speaks in ways that communicates God's glory and goodness. The law is perfection itself, is sweeter than honey, and revives the soul. It is conveyed through many synonyms: decrees, precepts, commandments, and ordinances. Through God's guidance for humanity there is rejoicing, beauty, desire and great benefit for all. This psalm uses poetry to communicate what is finally indescribable: God's goodness that renews us each day with wisdom and joy. God's glory turns us from being rude and arrogant to celebrating with humility the awesomeness of God. The psalmist is not so much teaching but delighting the soul so that we experience and enjoy God's handiwork that is filled with beauty, power, and awe. How do you experience God's creation? How do you express that sense of awe and wonder?

Pray: **God of glory, we thank you for your goodness; help us to express our joy and delight in your presence through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Ten Commandments listed in Exodus 20 give us a set of rules to help us understand how to live with others. Like the rules we have in our home, school, or elsewhere, they free us to live a good life and teach us how to be thoughtful and kind to others through our actions and our words. What act of kindness can you do for someone this week?

In the Gospel of John, the cleansing of the temple has an emphasis on Jesus as the temple of God, the very place to worship, see, and experience God in the world. We worship God in our congregations and in our daily lives. Where Christ is present in faith, your home is church, too, because God in Christ dwells with you. Keep this in mind as you do your *Daily Bible Readings* this week. Say the *Prayer for the Week* and add your own prayers. End the time by saying: **Remember that you are God's, and to God you shall return.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21